

SB 341 (Lowenthal)

DUMP TRUCK BACK-UP ALARMS

AS AMENDED 6/21/2011

BACKGROUND SHEET

PURPOSE

To fix the safety gap in current law regarding back-up alarms for dump trucks

SUMMARY

SB 341 would amend the California Vehicle Code to require dump trucks to have operable back-up alarms.

BACKGROUND

Trucks traveling through aggregate plants or construction sites pose occupational safety challenges due to their number, mobility, and traffic patterns, changes in driver and tractor/trailer combinations and separate ownership and operation.

While most dump trucks have a working back-up alarm and aggregate and construction sites enforce alarm requirements it maintains a challenge to ensure that every truck has a working alarm given the number of trucks and frequency of changes.

There is also the additional public safety concern that while operating on public road or in other areas, a dump truck is not required to have a back-up alarm.

Dump trucks haul heavy cargo, and are often referred to as gravel trucks. Hundreds of trucks can go to and from aggregate and construction sites in a day.

Back up alarms are inexpensive, usually less than \$150 and installed in one day. State and federal occupational safety law requires back-up alarms at aggregate and construction sites. Unfortunately, there is no requirement in the vehicle code which can lead to inconsistency and confusion.

SUPPORT

Sponsor: California Construction and Industrial Material Association (CalCIMA)

Associated General Contractor (AGC)
Basic Resources, Inc.
California Dump Truck Owners Association
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
Elements Specialties
Graniterock
Holliday Rock Company
Knife River Company
LeHigh Hanson
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
Specialty Mineral Inc.
Vulcan Materials Company
West Coast Aggregates, Inc.

OPPOSITION

None on file

STATUS

Bill signed by the Governor September 6, 2011
Chapter 235, Statutes of 2011.

STAFF CONTACT

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